Background and Research

What Is a Tornado?

Tornadoes are categorized by the **Fujita scale**. They typically occur in the spring and summer months, but can occur at any time in any part of the country. Tornadoes are sometimes spawned by hurricanes.

F0 **F1** **F2** **F3** **F4** **F5**

F0 Light:
Some damage can be seen to poorly maintained roofs. Unsecured light-weight objects, such as trash cans, are displaced.

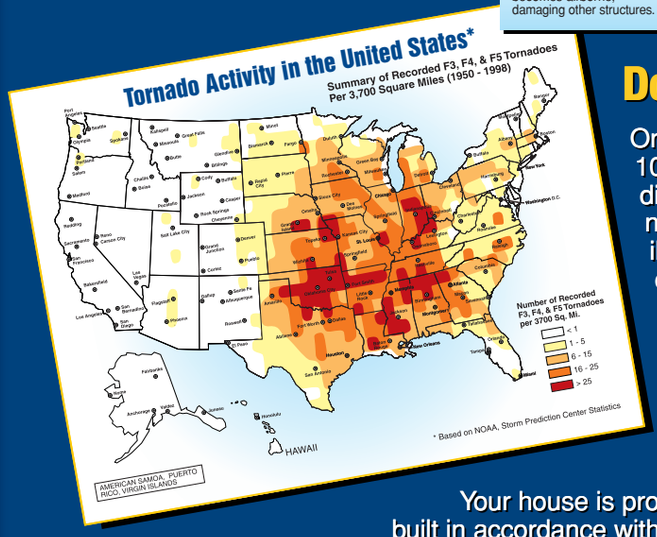
F1 Moderate:
Minor damage to roofs and broken windows occur. Larger and heavier objects become displaced. Minor damage to trees and landscaping can be observed.

F2 Considerable:
Roofs are damaged. Manufactured homes, on nonpermanent foundations, can be shifted off their foundation. Trees and landscaping either snap or are blown over. Medium-sized debris becomes airborne, damaging other structures.

F3 Severe:
Roofs and some walls, especially unreinforced masonry, are torn from structures. Small ancillary buildings are often destroyed. Manufactured homes on nonpermanent foundations can be overturned. Some trees are uprooted.

F4 Devastating:
Well constructed homes, as well as manufactured homes, are destroyed. Some structures are lifted off their foundations. Automobile-sized debris is displaced and often tumbles. Trees are often uprooted and blown over.

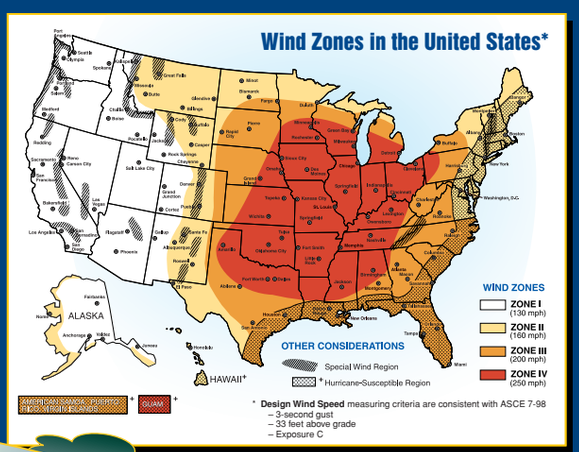
F5 Incredible:
Strong frame houses and engineered buildings are lifted from their foundations or are significantly damaged or destroyed. Automobile-sized debris is moved significant distances. Trees are uprooted and splintered.



Do You Need a Shelter?

On the basis of 40 years of tornado history and more than 100 years of hurricane history, the United States has been divided into four zones that geographically reflect the number and strength of extreme windstorms. The illustration below shows these four zones. Zone IV has experienced the most and the strongest tornado activity. Zone III has experienced significant tornado activity and includes coastal areas that are susceptible to hurricanes.

Your house is probably built in accordance with local building codes that consider the effects of minimum, "code-approved" design winds in your area. Building codes require that buildings be able to withstand a "**design**" wind event. A tornado or extreme hurricane can cause winds much greater than those on which local code requirements are based.



Managing Risk

Damage Color Code

The Threat to Property and Personal Safety Can Be Minimized Through Compliance With Up-To-Date Model Building Codes and Engineering Standards

Property and Personal Protection Can Be Improved Through Wind Hazard Mitigation Techniques Not Normally Required by Current Building Codes

Personal Protection Can Only Be Achieved Through Use of a Specially Designed Extreme Wind Refuge Area, Shelter, or Safe Room